

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-23

February 14, 2003

Information Technology

MARINE SHIP REPORT TELECOMMUNICATIONS

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: CIO14 (M. Sikorski)

Certified by: CIO (B. West)

Type of Issuance: Initial

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supersedes WSOM Chapter 6-92, Issuance 93-04, "Marine Ship Report Telecommunications," dated April 29, 1993.

1. The Safety-Of-Life-At-Sea (SOLAS) Convention (U.S. Treaty) established the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and the associated requirement to collect the meteorological data needed to provide advance notice of catastrophic weather events in order to mitigate the loss of lives and property at sea. This directive establishes the program to reimburse commercial communications companies for the collection and delivery of ship reports to the NWS.
2. The objective of the Marine Ship Report Telecommunications Program is to ensure that ship reports sent from ocean areas, adjacent to U.S. coasts, to commercial communications stations reach the National Weather Service Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG) in order to support the preparation of marine weather forecasts and warnings.
3. To encourage participation in the program, the NWS will pay the associated telecommunications costs for ship reports received at the NWSTG from commercial communications stations.
4. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - 4.1 The Assistant Administrator (AA) for Weather Services is responsible for ensuring NWS compliance with the SOLAS Treaty.
 - 4.2 The Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for ensuring all international commitments of the NWS regarding the collection and distribution of marine ship reports are met.
 - 4.3 The National Data Buoy Center, Office of Operational Systems, through its Port Meteorological Officer Program, is responsible for promoting the NWS Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Program (see Policy Directive NDS 10-201) and encouraging regular reporting of weather observations by participating vessels at sea.

4.4 The Telecommunication Gateway Operations Branch, Telecommunication Operations Center (TOC), Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for ensuring that received ship reports conform to agreed upon international format standards and are forwarded to NWS forecasting centers.

4.5 The Telecommunications Infrastructure Branch, TOC, CIO, is responsible for the acquisition and management of services provided by commercial companies to maintain the Marine Ship Report Telecommunications Program and for ensuring proper payment to those companies who provide ship reports to the NWS.

5. The effectiveness of this policy will be determined by the volume of received ship reports that conform to agreed upon international format standards.

6. This policy directive is supported by the references and glossary of terms listed in Attachment 1.

<u>signed John E. Jones, Jr</u>	<u>January 31, 2003</u>
John J. Kelly, Jr.	Date
Assistant Administrator	
for Weather Services	

Attachment 1
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

1. The 1974 Safety-Of-Life-At-Sea (SOLAS) Convention (Chapter IV, Regulation 5—adopted in 1988)
2. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) Circular 5, dated November 24, 1994, Master Plan of Shore-based Facilities for the GMDSS (GMDSS Master Plan)
3. WMO Code Form FM 13-VII Ship - Ship's Weather Observations, dated January 12, 1982
4. NDS 10-201 Voluntary Observing Ship Program
5. NDS 10-3 Marine and Coastal Weather Services

Terms

GMDSS	-	Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
GTS	-	Global Telecommunication System
IMO	-	International Maritime Organization
INMARSAT	-	International Maritime Satellite Organization
NCEP	-	National Center for Environmental Prediction
NWS	-	National Weather Service
NWSTG	-	National Weather Service Telecommunication Gateway
SOLAS	-	Safety-Of-Life-At-Sea
VOS	-	Voluntary Observing Ship Program
WMO	-	World Meteorological Organization